

188

BEMIS
BURROWS
LOPES

MOON KNIGHT



RAVENCROFT ASYLUM.

YOU SAY REMEMBERING YOUR YOUTH IS LIKE LOOKING THROUGH A LAYER OF JELL-O.

WHERE DO THINGS BECOME LUCID? WHEN DID YOU *BECOME YOURSELF*?

I LEARNED WHO I WAS IN THE ARMY, THAT MUCH IS CLEAR.

I GET IT. THE ARMY. THE INCIDENT.

ASIDE FROM THE PHYSICAL, WHAT DID YOU WALK AWAY WITH ON THE DAY YOU HURT THEM?

WELL, DR. EMMETT...

I'LL TRY TO SPEAK WITH INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THIS. FORGIVE ME IF IT'S UNNERVING.

IN THE ARMY, I LEARNED THAT THERE IS A GOD.

I SEE.

HOW SO?

I MEAN JUST WHAT I SAID.

ATHEISTS, SKEPTICS, THEY'RE ALL WRONG. FACTUALLY.

I SAW GOD IN MY FIRE, AND I KNOW WITH ALL CERTAINTY IT WAS HIM.



NON-BELIEVERS
DON'T GET HOW
SOMEONE SO HUMONGOUS AND
STRONG WOULD HOLD US
IN SUCH HIGH REGARD.

THAT'S THE ONE
PART THEY GET
RIGHT. HE DOESN'T
CARE FOR MOST
PEOPLE.



WELL, IF
THAT'S TRUE...
TELL ME ABOUT
THIS GOD.



HE MADE
THE LAWS FOR
HOW THE RIVERS
RUN AND THINGS
CORRODE AND ROT
AND HOW WE
DESTROY EACH
OTHER FOR OUR
PIECE OF
EARTH.

THE
INDISPUTABLE
LAWS.

THEY WEREN'T
VERY NICE TO ME
IN THE ARMY, BUT
WHY WOULD
THEY BE?

I HAD TO
SHOW THEM
I WAS MORE
DEVOTED, MORE
SIGNIFICANT
THAN THEY
WERE.

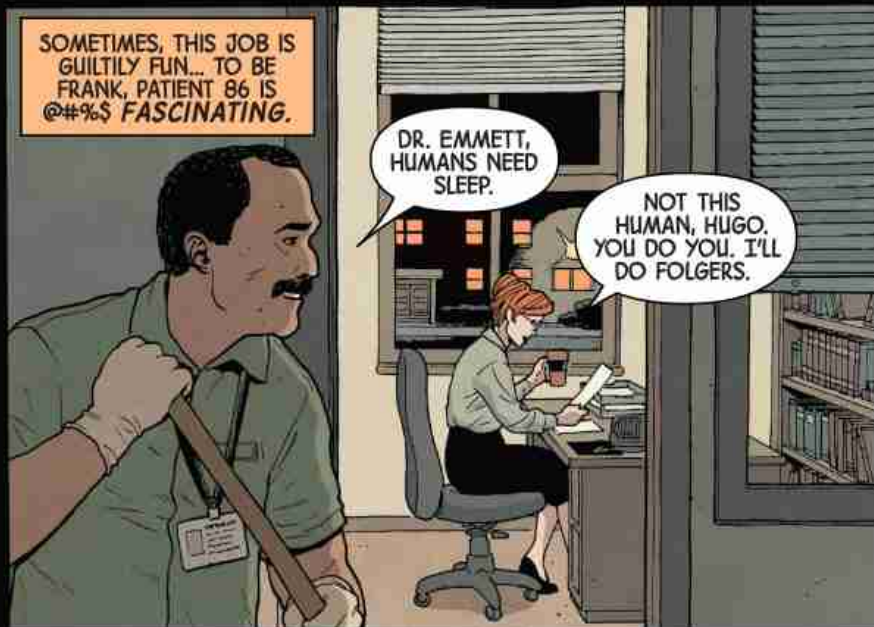


SOUNDS A
BIT COMPLEX FOR
LUNKHEADED ARMY BULLIES
TO COMPREHEND. YOU THINK
YOU GOT YOUR POINT
ACROSS IN THE END?

THEY
DIDN'T SEE IT
AT FIRST.



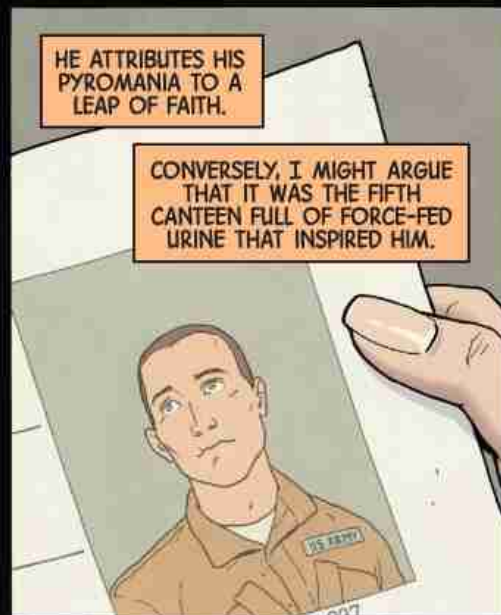
I HAD
TO **BURN**
THEM.



SOMETIMES, THIS JOB IS GUILTYLY FUN... TO BE FRANK, PATIENT 86 IS @#%\$ FASCINATING.

DR. EMMETT, HUMANS NEED SLEEP.

NOT THIS HUMAN, HUGO. YOU DO YOU. I'LL DO FOLGERS.



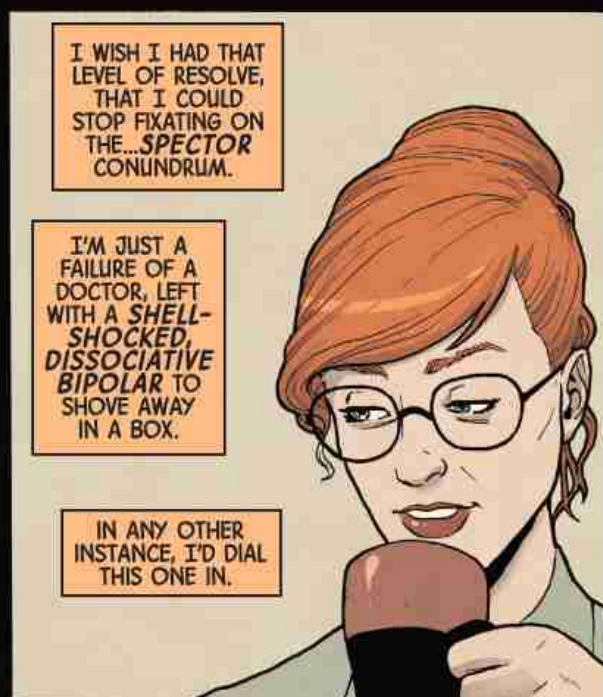
HE ATTRIBUTES HIS PYROMANIA TO A LEAP OF FAITH.

CONVERSELY, I MIGHT ARGUE THAT IT WAS THE FIFTH CANTEEN FULL OF FORCE-FED URINE THAT INSPIRED HIM.



SOMETIMES I GET HIM SO FULLY THAT IT'S LIKE I WANT TO HAVE A BEER WITH THE GUY.

HE WEARS SELF-DELUSION WITH SO MUCH... DIGNITY.



I WISH I HAD THAT LEVEL OF RESOLVE, THAT I COULD STOP FIXATING ON THE...SPECTOR CONUNDRUM.

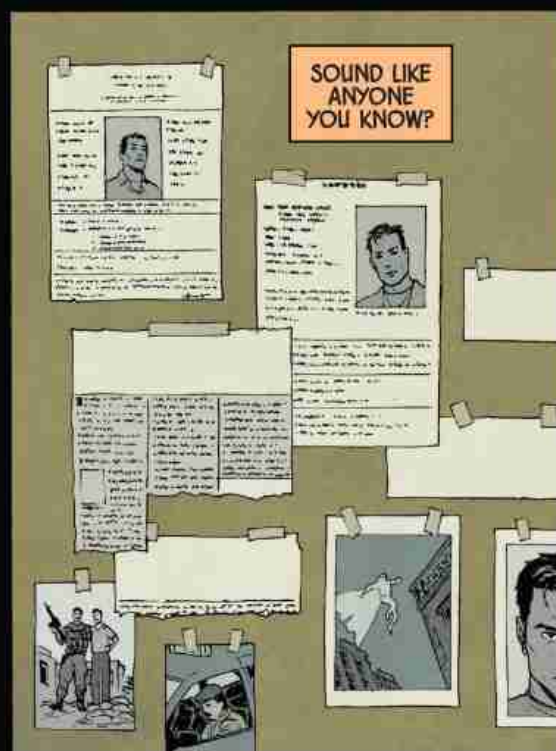
I'M JUST A FAILURE OF A DOCTOR, LEFT WITH A SHELL-SHOCKED, DISSOCIATIVE BIPOLAR TO SHOVE AWAY IN A BOX.

IN ANY OTHER INSTANCE, I'D DIAL THIS ONE IN.



IT'S JUST THAT ONE NAGGING THING.

LUNATIC JOINS THE ARMY. SAID LUNATIC FREAKS OUT AND ENDS UP SPIRITUALLY REBORN IN A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE.



SOUND LIKE ANYONE YOU KNOW?

Marc Spector. Steven Grant. Jake Lockley. Each a distinct personality of one man vying for control. Spector, the original personality, has asserted his dominance and fights to retain that control.

But years ago, as a mercenary, Spector died in Egypt under a statue of the Moon God **Khonshu**. In the shadow of the ancient deity, Marc returned to life. From then on, Marc took on a new aspect in honor of Khonshu, dedicating his second life to fighting crime as...

MOON KNIGHT

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SO, I SAY,
"NO, &@#\$, HEAD
OF PSYCHOLOGY
AT HARVARD. THE
HARVARD."

I THINK
HE DROPPED
A DEUCE RIGHT
THEN AND
THERE!



HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

I KNOW,
RIGHT?

HONEY,
STOPPP.
THAT'S MY
BROTHER YOU'RE
SLAGGING
OFF.

HE'S ALSO
A GROWN MAN
WHO'S BEEN SHOPPING
A SCREENPLAY ABOUT
ATLANTIS FOR TEN
YEARS.



MARC, MY FORMER PATIENT.
AND THIS NEW ONE,
PATIENT 86. TRAUMATIC
EXPERIENCES IN THE
MIDDLE EAST. THE
SIMILARITY IS BRAZEN.

WAS THERE SOMETHING
IN MARC'S EXPERIENCE
THAT PATIENT 86 COULD...



HEYOOOH!
EMMETT'S
DRIFTED OFF
AGAIN!

STILL STUCK
ON THE HOODED
LEOTARD GUY?



I WAS NOT
THINKING ABOUT
HIM, JERRY! I'M
ENJOYING MY DUO
OF LAMB!

AND IT'S NOT
A LEOTARD,
I THINK IT'S SOME
KIND OF WEIRD,
KEVLAR-BASED
STOCKING...



YOU'VE GOT
TO LET IT GO, E.
YOU'RE IN A ROOM FULL
OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST
MDS, ONE OF WHOM
TREATS BRAD
PITT.

YOU OWE
THE IVY LEAGUE
A FINER LEGACY
THAN THAT
LOSER.



I ANGER-BRUSH AWAY
WINE STAINS, REVEALING MY
NATURAL SHADE OF COFFEE.

WHAT DOES THAT @#%\$
JERRY O'HEIR KNOW? HAS
HE WORKED FOR **ANYTHING**
SINCE MED SCHOOL?

HE'D **PAY** TO AVOID ALL
THE BRILLIANT AND HORRIBLE
THINGS I'VE SEEN.



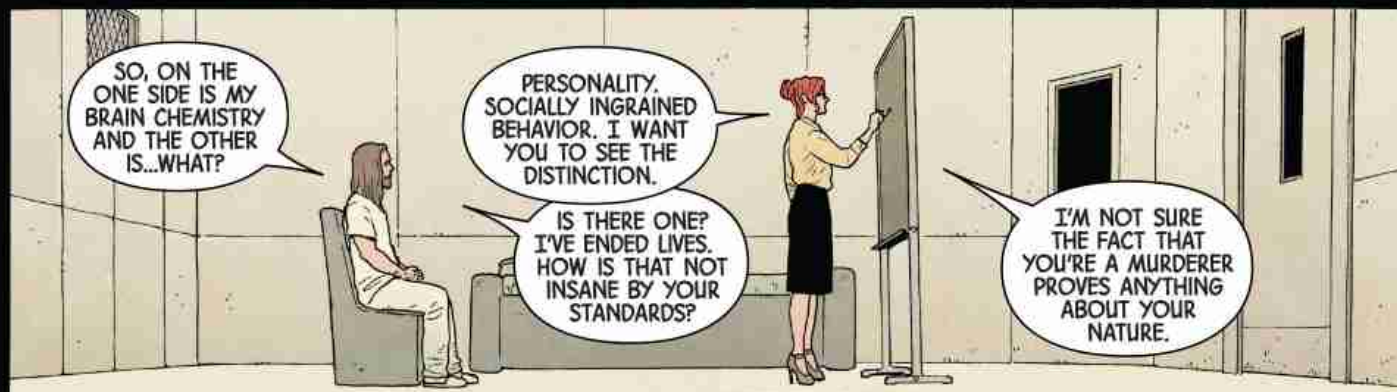
AS A DOCTOR...YOU SHOULD
BE CONSTANTLY LEARNING. I
KNOW I'M ENRICHING MYSELF.
ESPECIALLY WITH PATIENT 86.

THIS IS **BIGGER** THAN ITS
CONNECTION TO MARC.

BESIDES...



WHO CARES ABOUT
THAT FREAKY SON OF
A @#%\$ ANYWAY?

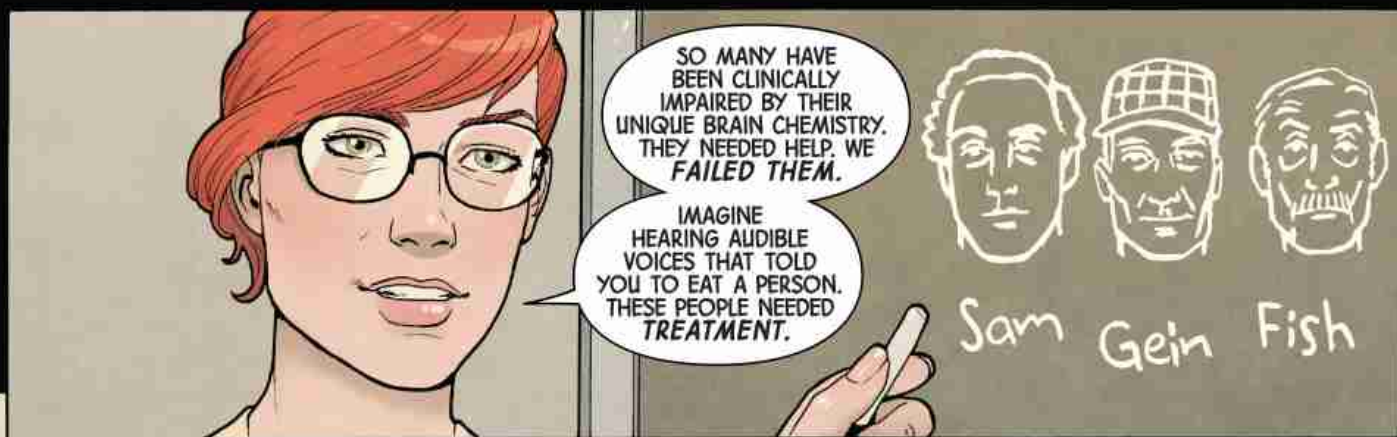


SO, ON THE ONE SIDE IS MY BRAIN CHEMISTRY AND THE OTHER IS...WHAT?

PERSONALITY. SOCIALLY INGRAINED BEHAVIOR. I WANT YOU TO SEE THE DISTINCTION.

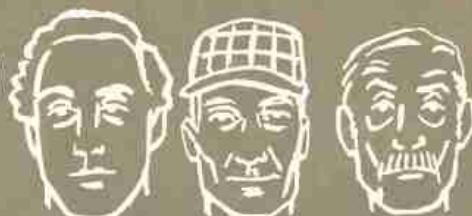
IS THERE ONE? I'VE ENDED LIVES. HOW IS THAT NOT INSANE BY YOUR STANDARDS?

I'M NOT SURE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A MURDERER PROVES ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR NATURE.



SO MANY HAVE BEEN CLINICALLY IMPAIRED BY THEIR UNIQUE BRAIN CHEMISTRY. THEY NEEDED HELP. WE FAILED THEM.

IMAGINE HEARING AUDIBLE VOICES THAT TOLD YOU TO EAT A PERSON. THESE PEOPLE NEEDED TREATMENT.



Sam Gein Fish



YOU DEVELOPED BIPOLAR DISORDER DURING YOUR EARLY ADULTHOOD. MOODS FLUCTUATING FROM MANIA TO DEPRESSION TO UTTERLY CONVINCING DELUSION.

COMPOUNDED BY THE TRAUMATIC CHILDHOOD ON THE STREET, IN STATE HOMES, AND JUVIE THAT YOU BARELY RECALL.

NONE OF THESE THINGS WERE YOUR FAULT. NOR WHAT HAPPENED IN THE DESERT.

IN TERMS OF WHAT YOU DID... I GET IT.

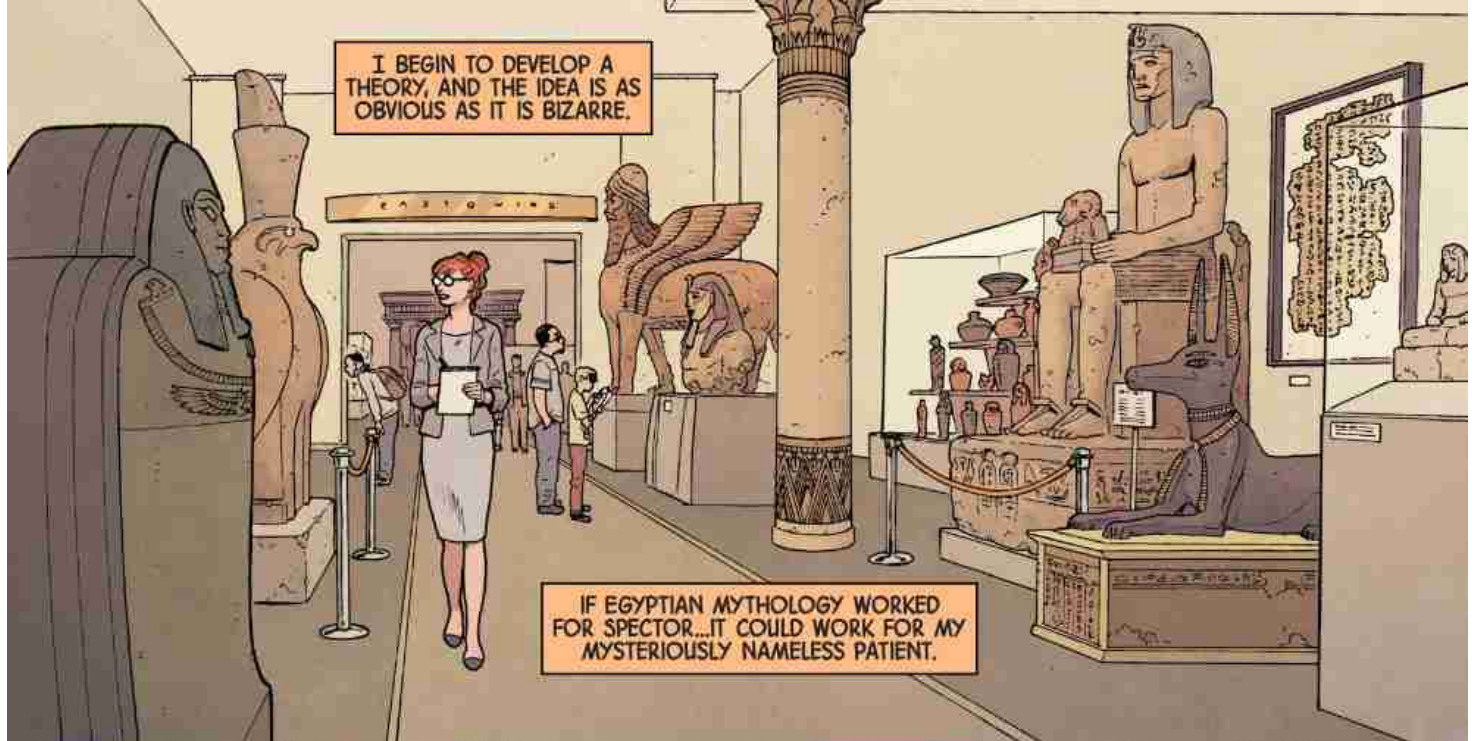
YOU FOUND THE ANSWER TO YOUR PAIN IN SOMETHING THAT YOU COULD CONTROL AND THAT WOULD SIMULTANEOUSLY CONTROL YOU.



FIRE. ALWAYS FIRE.

FIRE. GOD. RESTORATION. NONE OF THESE SYMBOLS ARE INHERENTLY HARMFUL.





I BEGIN TO DEVELOP A THEORY, AND THE IDEA IS AS OBVIOUS AS IT IS BIZARRE.

IF EGYPTIAN MYTHOLOGY WORKED FOR SPECTOR...IT COULD WORK FOR MY MYSTERIOUSLY NAMELESS PATIENT.



AS I STAND IN FRONT OF THE STATUE OF KHONSHU, MARC'S MAIN SQUEEZE, I HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT REALIZATION--MARC SPECTOR MAY BE LEGALLY INSANE...

...BUT HE WAS NEVER CRAZY AT ALL.



IS EVERY PRIEST WHO HEARS THE VOICE OF THEIR LORD CRAZY? EVERY SHAMAN?

THE DAMN WRITERS OF THE CONSTITUTION, INVOKING GOD ON EVERY PAGE?



MARC MANIFESTED THE MEANING OF THIS ICON. HIS DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER SIMPLY BROUGHT IT MORE VIVIDLY TO LIFE.

HE **NEEDED** AN EMBLEM OF HIS INNER BEDLAM AND HIS INNATE NEED TO PROTECT VICTIMS.

AND THE GOD OF THESE QUALITIES--**KHONSHU**--CAME TO HIM. LITERALLY.



I CLOSE MY EYES AND I CAN ALMOST SEE THEM MYSELF.



OSIRIS DRAWS A LINE FROM LOVE TO DEATH WITH AN INSPIRED BRUSHSTROKE AND AFFIRMS MY ACHING MORTALITY.

HORUS SHOOTS ME A LOOK FROM ACROSS THE ROOM, TELLING ME MY DEEP HATRED FOR DOUCHEBAGS AND THEIR KIDS IS A PATHETIC ASPECT OF A JUST WAR.



COULD IMHOTEP BE THE LIVING IDEA THAT BRINGS CLARITY AND HEALING TO B6's TORTURED MIND?



THEN, I SEE RA.

I SEE RA
AND IT ALL
MAKES SENSE.





AMON RA REPRESENTED THE BURNING, BLAZING EMBLEM OF MASCULINE VIRILITY THAT IS THE SUN.

IN MANY CULTURES, THE SUN STANDS FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MASCULINITY--LOGIC AND RAW POWER.

BUT IN THE NEW KINGDOM OF EGYPTIAN LORE IT WAS HIS **ADOPTED** SON KHONSHU WHO WAS DESCRIBED AS "GREATEST GOD OF THE GREAT GODS."

KHONSHU OF THE MOON, A UNIVERSAL SYMBOL FOR THE REDEMPITIVE POWER OF INSUBORDINATION--FEMININITY AND SENSITIVITY.

THE RAS OF THIS WORLD RESENT BECOMING PASSE. IT MAKES THEM ANGRY. AND THEY BURN HARDER TO SPITE THEIR OWN IMPOTENCE.

ESTABLISHED SOCIETY CAN'T ACCEPT CHANGE. CAN'T ACCEPT THAT THE OLD WAYS DON'T WORK ANYMORE.

SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, DROPPED YOU INTO A SEA OF LOST CHILDREN.

I BELIEVE WHAT YOU'RE HIDING FROM YOURSELF WAS MOST LIKELY SOME FORM OF ABUSE.

REACH BACK FOR ME, AS FAR AS YOU CAN.

DOES THAT IDEA SPARK ANYTHING FOR YOU? SOMETHING THAT LINES UP WITH THE INCIDENT IN THE ARMY?

I CAN TRY.

YEAH...

I THINK YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.



FINALLY, I REVEAL
THE TALE OF MARC
SPECTOR TO 86.

HOW A CONFUSED,
MENTALLY UNSTABLE BOY
DREW ON THE FIGURATIVE
POWER OF THE MOON
TO JUSTIFY HIS NATURE.

MARC'S TRANSFORMATION INTO
THE HERO CALLED MOON KNIGHT...A
ROLE MODEL FOR THE BEWILDERED.

I PASS ALONG ALL MY ENDLESS
RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION OF
HIS LIFE SINCE HE WAS UNDER MY
CARE, AS WELL AS SEVERAL WELL-
REGARDED BOOKS CONSIDERING
EGYPTIAN MYTHOLOGY.

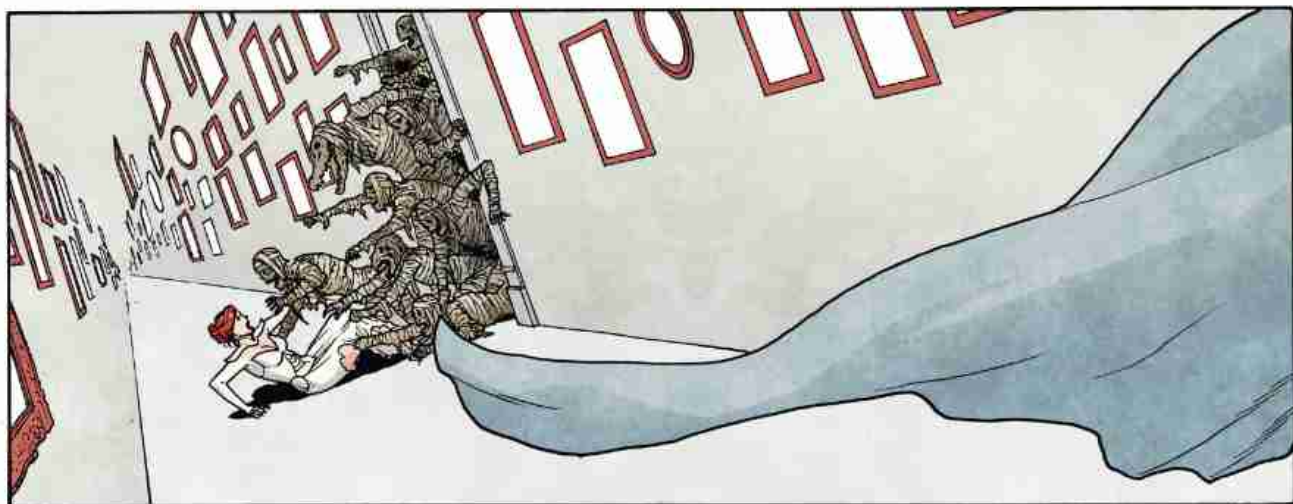
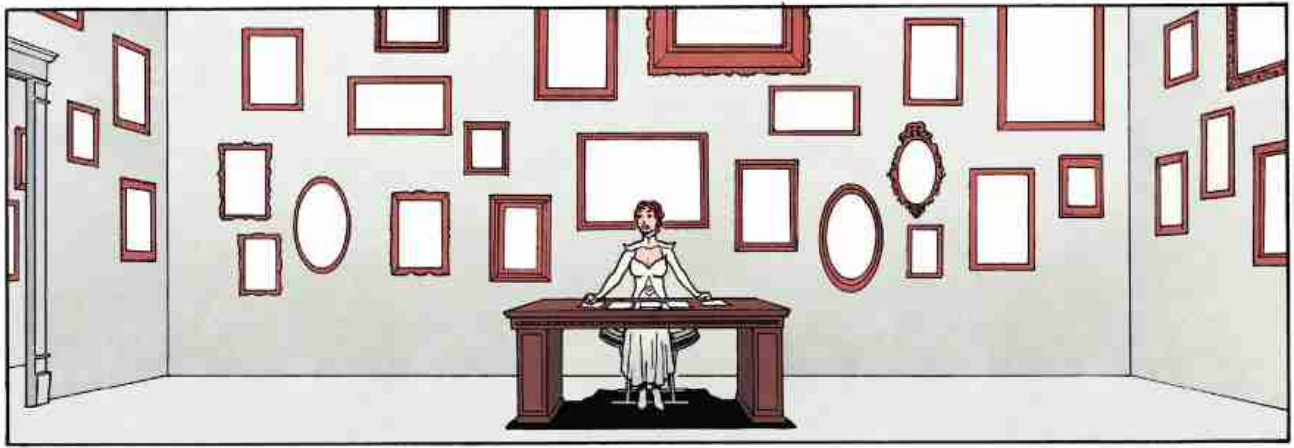


AND MADLY ENOUGH,
PATIENT 86 GETS IT.
IT CLICKS IN HIM.

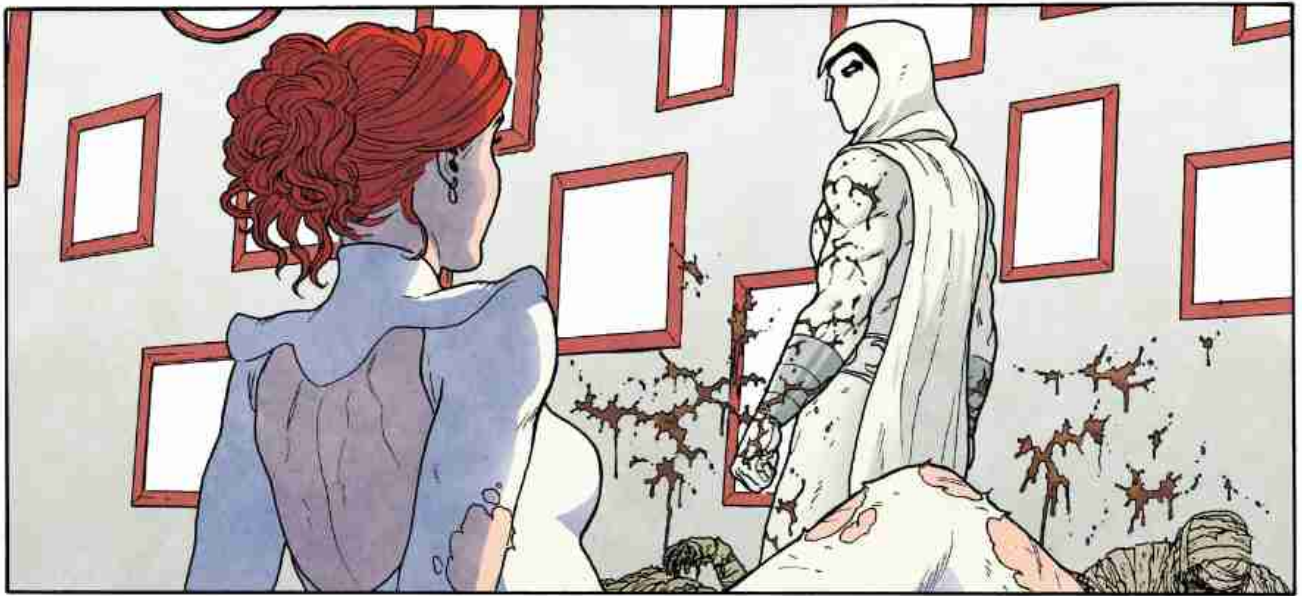
HE SEES HOW SPECTOR, LIKE HIM,
WAS NOT JUST INSANE, BUT WAS
TRULY IMMersed IN A LIVING MYTH.



IT WAS NEVER THE
MOON'S FAULT THAT IT
SHONE SO BRIGHTLY.







I REALIZE THAT AS TRANQUIL AS MY PATIENT APPEARS, I'LL NEED TO TURN TO OTHERS TO DIG FOR THE TRUTH OF HIS PAST.

DEPARTMENT OF
VETERAN
AFFAIRS
MEDICAL FACILITY

THE MILITARY HOSPITAL
THAT TRANSFERRED HIM
TO OUR CARE.

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE
I CAN'T UNEARTH
ANYTHING THAT
MAKES SENSE.

I DON'T SAY
THIS A LOT ABOUT
MULTIPLE MURDERERS,
BUT...

IF YOU'RE
ASKING WHAT I
THOUGHT OF THE MAN,
I'D HAVE TO ADMIT HE
BROUGHT NOTHING
BUT WARMTH TO
THIS PLACE.

TRUST ME,
I KNOW HIS
EAGERNESS TO
LEARN TO HEAL
HIMSELF...

I WISH
WE COULD HAVE
KEPT HIM, BUT
SINCE IT WAS
DISCOVERED HE
JOINED UNDER A
FORGED ALIAS, WE
COULDN'T
OFFICIALLY...

LOOK, I'VE
TREATED KILLERS
BEFORE.

I'VE SEEN
MORE INCIDENTS
OF BULLYING, PTSD,
AND THE UGLY SIDE OF
BIPOLAR THAN ONE
CAN COUNT.

WE AREN'T
SUPPOSED TO
ADMIT THIS, BUT
AS A FELLOW
DOCTOR...

...ANYONE
WOULD HAVE HURT
THOSE BASTARDS
FOR ALL THEY
DID.



MA'AM!

DOCTOR!

WAIT!



YOU'RE HERE ABOUT THE NAMELESS ONE, AREN'T YOU?

YES, I AM, BUT I'M AFRAID I MUST--



LISTEN. THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME.

BUT I WAS SERVING OVER THERE AT THE TIME.

WE ALL KNOW THE TRUTH. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE.

THEY HAD HIM TIED UP. NAKED.



HOW COULD HE HAVE POSSIBLY STARTED THAT FIRE?

NO MATCHES. NO LIGHTER. I KNOW WHAT HE--

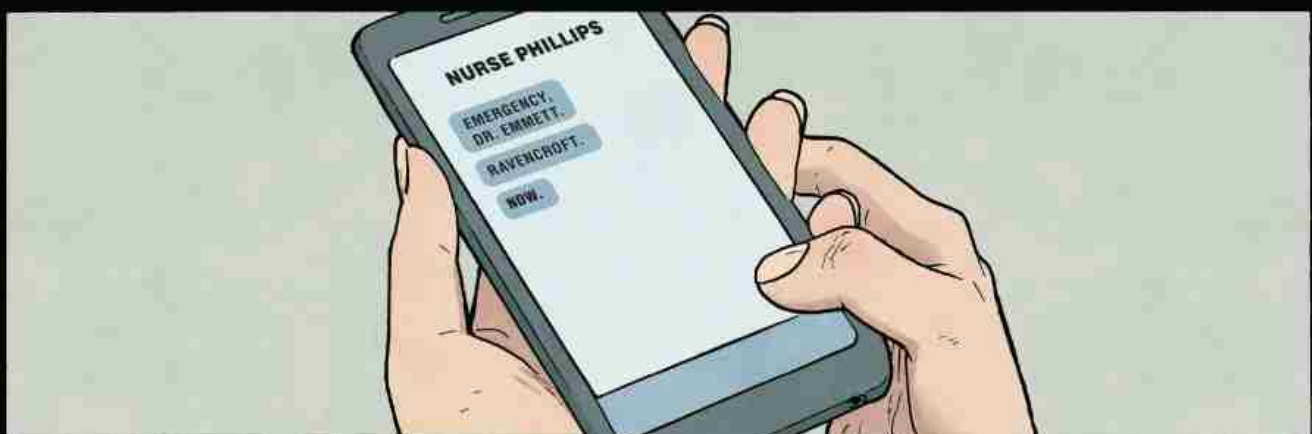


OKAY, BUDDY. LET'S LEAVE THE NICE LADY ALONE.

IF YOU'RE NOT AFRAID, YOU SHOULD BE!

BE AFRAID!

DING



NURSE PHILLIPS

EMERGENCY.
DR. EMMETT.
RAVENCROFT.
NOW.

HOW COULD THIS BE? WAS IT ALL FOR NOTHING?

AS A DOCTOR, I BELIEVED I COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE. BUT AGAIN, I AM JUST AT THE WHIM OF THE RAW, ELEMENTAL POWER OF INSANITY.

WE FOUND HIM LIKE THIS AND IMMEDIATELY RESTRAINED HIM.

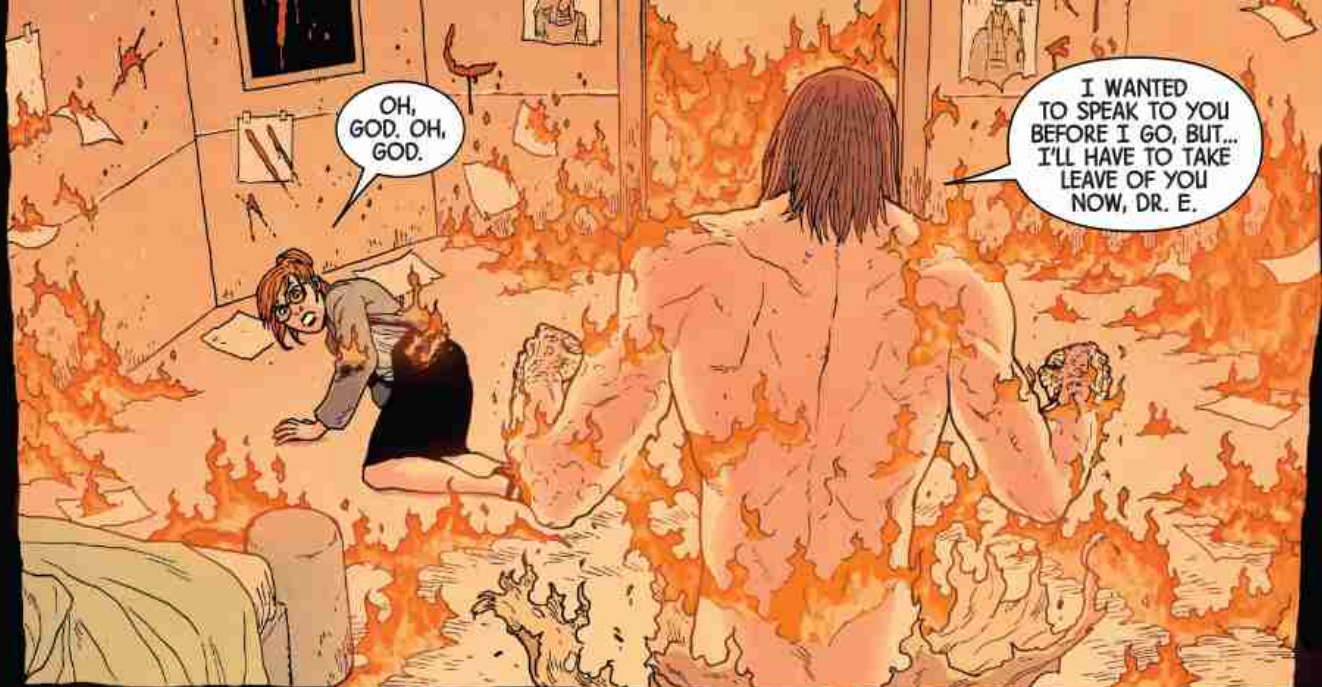
SO NOBODY ELSE BESIDES NURSE HAYWORTH COULD BE HURT. ALSO...

THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO RETRIEVE HER NOSE.









OH,
GOD. OH,
GOD.

I WANTED
TO SPEAK TO YOU
BEFORE I GO, BUT...
I'LL HAVE TO TAKE
LEAVE OF YOU
NOW, DR. E.



WHO ARE
YOU?

WHAT ARE
YOU???



WHATEVER
MADE ME THE
WAY I AM IS
IRRELEVANT.

YOU BROUGHT
ME PURPOSE. YOU
SHOWED ME THAT I
AM--AND ALWAYS
HAVE BEEN--
A GOD.



DEAR
LORD.

AMON
RA.

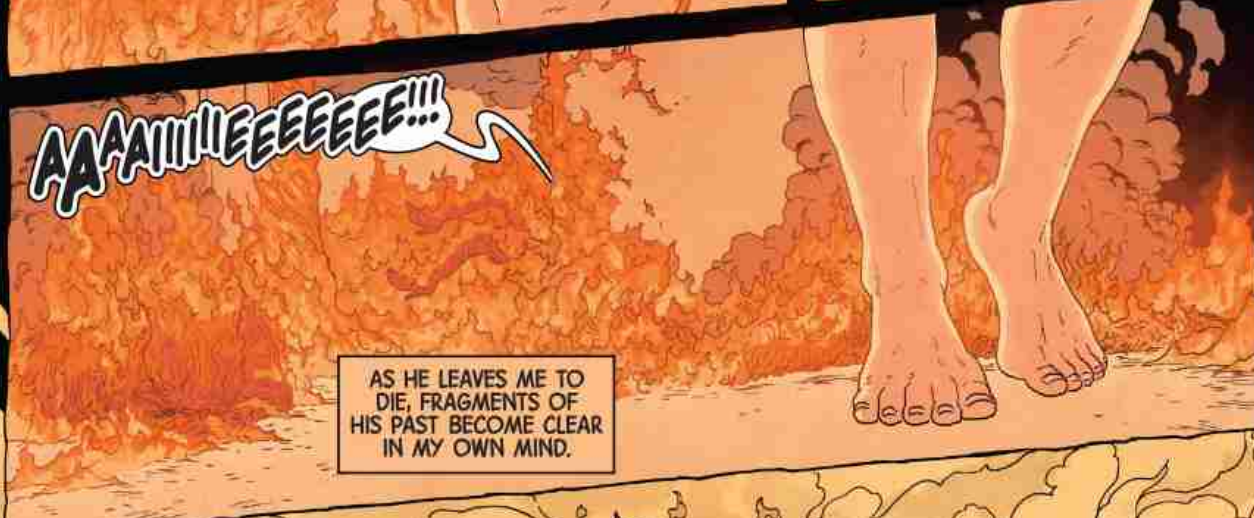


KHONSHU
WILL BOW
TO ME.

AFTER I
CRACK HIS SPINE,
AND PEEL THE SKIN
FROM HIS BODY, AND
PLUCK HIS EYEBALLS
FROM HIS SKULL, HE
WILL BOW
TO ME.

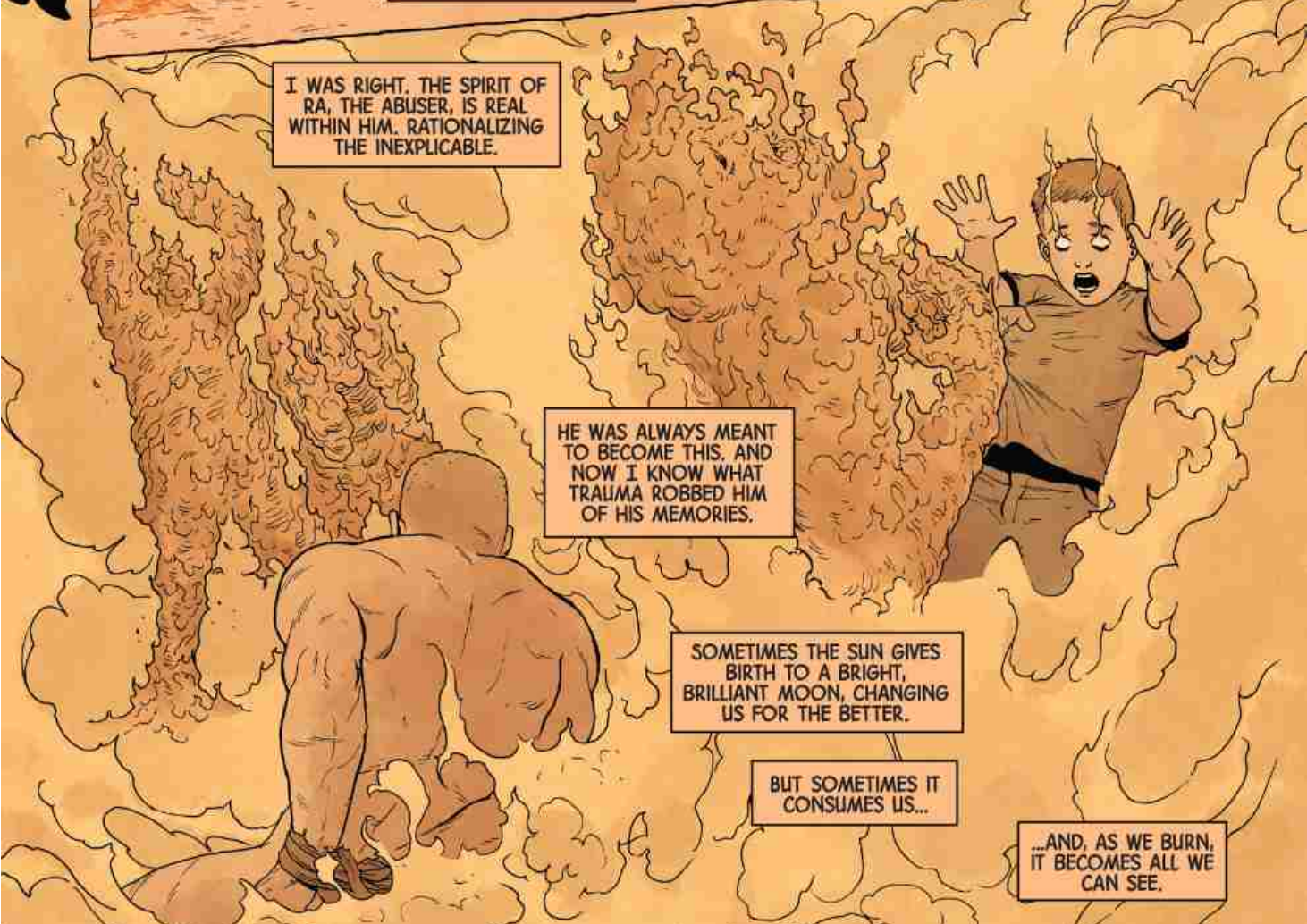


I AM WHAT
THIS WORLD WAS...
AND WILL BECOME
AGAIN.



AAAAAIIIIII EEEEEEE!!!

AS HE LEAVES ME TO
DIE, FRAGMENTS OF
HIS PAST BECAME CLEAR
IN MY OWN MIND.



I WAS RIGHT. THE SPIRIT OF
RA, THE ABUSER, IS REAL
WITHIN HIM. RATIONALIZING
THE INEXPLICABLE.

HE WAS ALWAYS MEANT
TO BECOME THIS. AND
NOW I KNOW WHAT
TRAUMA ROBBED HIM
OF HIS MEMORIES.

SOMETIMES THE SUN GIVES
BIRTH TO A BRIGHT,
BRILLIANT MOON, CHANGING
US FOR THE BETTER.

BUT SOMETIMES IT
CONSUMES US...

...AND, AS WE BURN,
IT BECOMES ALL WE
CAN SEE.

MARC SPECTOR.
MERCENARY.
SCOUNDREL. LUNATIC.



HE DIED AT THE
FEET OF A STATUE.

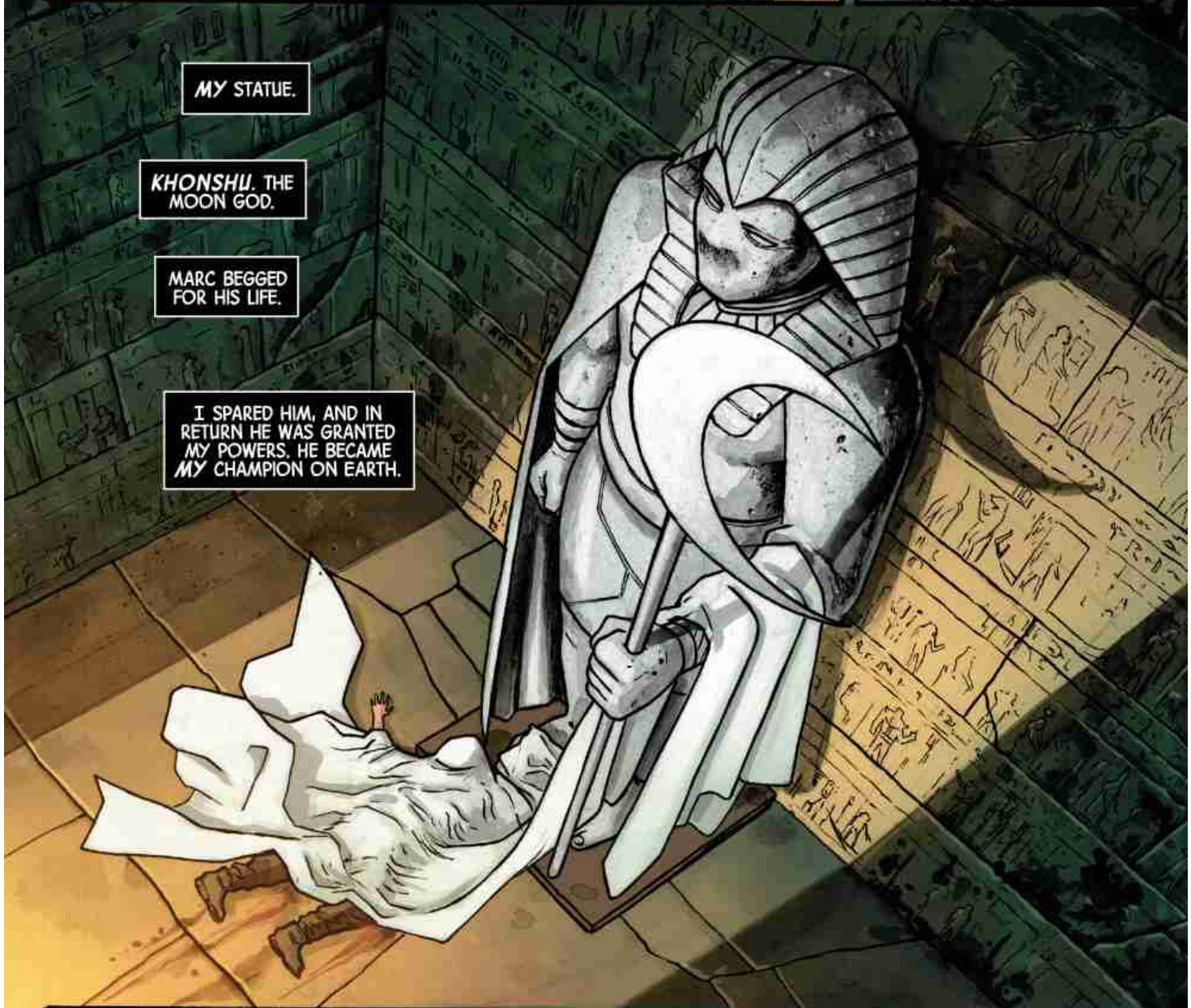


MY STATUE.

KHONSHU, THE
MOON GOD.

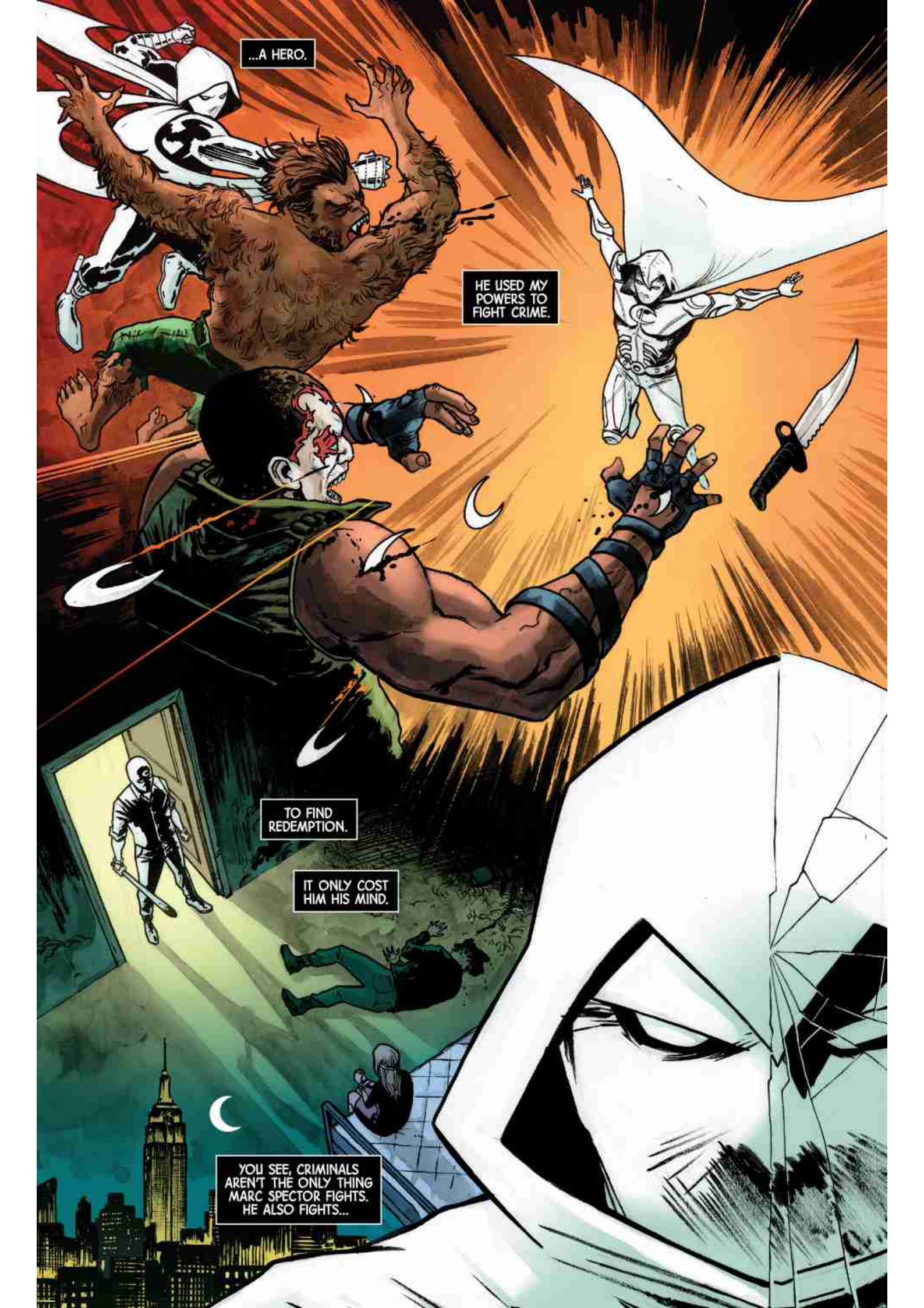
MARC BEGGED
FOR HIS LIFE.

I SPARED HIM, AND IN
RETURN HE WAS GRANTED
MY POWERS. HE BECAME
MY CHAMPION ON EARTH.



HE BECAME...





...A HERO.

HE USED MY
POWERS TO
FIGHT CRIME.

TO FIND
REDEMPTION.

IT ONLY COST
HIM HIS MIND.

YOU SEE, CRIMINALS
AREN'T THE ONLY THING
MARC SPECTOR FIGHTS.
HE ALSO FIGHTS...

...THE VOICES IN
HIS HEAD.

MARC SUFFERS
FROM MULTIPLE
PERSONALITY
DISORDER.

BUT GIVEN TIME, HE HAS
MANAGED TO MAKE PEACE
WITH THOSE VOICES.

INCLUDING
MINE.

NOW,
TOGETHER,
WE ARE...

MOON KNIGHT

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MOON KNIGHT



Writing MOON KNIGHT (not "a book like MOON KNIGHT" or "writing such a huge project for Marvel"... WRITING MOON KNIGHT) is a dream come true. I couldn't pick a better place in the Marvel U to inject my passion into, and it is the pinnacle of everything I've worked towards as a writer.

Anyone who treats a super hero comic as an easy paycheck needs to check themselves and realize why they're our most prevalent modern myths. Thank YOU (and my fam at Marvel) for letting me write this, supporting my previous work, and allowing me to make comics with someone as esteemed and talented as Jacen.

I only ask that if you enjoyed this somewhat bizarre issue, keep reading this book. I want to enjoy it WITH you. Maybe we can claw away at something horrible together.

It will not, however, be pretty.

Thanks,

Max Bemis
Philadelphia
Fall 2017

Max and I are really striving to put something together that is unique and interesting while drawing from Moon Knight's long history. This next chapter in Moon Knight's life is going to permanently affect this character's path and we are working hard live up to the task.

The appeal of the character, for me, is that you can explore a lot of ideas by tapping into different elements of his history, from metaphysical Egyptology to modern day psychological medicine. Moon Knight offers a vast playground of options for a creative team which is why he has always been one of Marvel's more experimental canvases. I couldn't be more excited to be working on a character with such a rich history of artists and writers pushing boundaries.

Moon Knight has been in a sort of creative renaissance since Warren Ellis and Declan Shalvey relaunched the character in 2014, all the way through the amazing arc recently completed by Jeff Lemire, Greg Smallwood and company, and we hope to continue this by making the next important chapter in Marc Spector's life thought-provoking, intense, a little scary, and a little funny.

Jacen Burrows



NEXT ISSUE:

CAN

MOON KNIGHT

HANDLE
THE
TRUTH?



Send letters into MHEROES@marvel.com, be sure to mark them "OK TO PRINT."